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Message Text

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12
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 EUR-12 IO-13 /078 W
---------- 100173
R 140655Z SEP 76
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHD 1972
INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAC
FBIS OKINAWA

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, PINR, CH
SUBJECT: RANK ORDER POLITBURO LISTING AND OTHER FUNERAL
PERSONALITIES

REF: HONG KONG 10632

1. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE CONVENING OF THE TENTH PARTY CONGRESS IN JULY 1973, PEKING HAS INDICATED THE RANK ORDER OF ITS POLITBURO LEADERSHIP LEAVING ONLY THE SLOT OF THE AILING LIU PO-CHENG AS A QUESTION MARK. THE RANKING, CARRIED IN NCNA (SEPTEMBER 11) AND BROADCAST DURING THE SATELLITE COVERAGE OF THE FIRST DAY OF OFFICIAL MOURNING, FOLLOWS THE WELL-NKOWN TOP FOUR STANDING COMMITTEE RANKING AND THEN PROCEEDS THROUGH CHIANG CHING, YAO WEN-YUAN, LI HSIEN-NIEN, CHEN HSI-LIEN, CHI TENG-KUEI, WANG TUNG-HSING, WU TEH, HSU SHIH-YU, WE KUO-CHING, LI TEH-SHENG, AND CHEN YUNG-KUEI.
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2. THE FOUR POLITBURO ALTERNATES--WU KUEI-HSIEN,.SU CHEN-HUA, NI CHIH-FU, AND SAIFUDIN--APPEAR IN THEIR USUAL POSTIONS WHICH COULD BE EITHER RANK OR STROKE ORDER. HOWEVER, WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT THE STROKE ORDER IS INDEED ALSO THE PROPER RANK ORDER. LIU PO-CHENG, WHO WAS PLACED AHEAD OF LI HSIEN-NIEN IN A RANK ORDER WREATH-SENDING FOR THE FUNERAL OF PI TING-CHUN (PEOPLE'S DAILY JULY 14), THUS BELONGS IN ONE OF THE TOP THREE POSITIONS BELOW THE STANDING COMMITTEE WITH CHIANG CHING AND YAO WEN-YUAN, BUT IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE THE EXACT POSITION THAT LIU HOLDS IN RELATIONS TO THE OTHER TWO. THE LIST FOR THE FIRST TIME IDENTIFIES THE POSITION OF PROVINCIAL-BASED POLITBURO MEMBERS AND INDICATES HOW FAR LI TEH-SHENG FELL WHEN HE LOST HIS VICE CHAIRMAN SPACE TO TENG HSIAO-PING IN 1975.

3. OF NOTE IN THE DESCRIPTION OF WREATHS PRESENTED TO THE CHAIRMAN IS THE WREATH FROM CHAING CHING AND MAO'S FAMILY MEMBERS WHICH INCLUDES, IN ADDITION TO THOSE MENTIONED AS MEMBERS OF THE FUNERAL COMMITTEE EARLIER (HONG KONG 10634), MAO'S SON BY YANG KAI-HUEI, MAO AN-CHING ABOUT WHOM NOTHING HAS BEEN HEARD FROM MANY YEARS. ALSO MENTIONED IS MAO YUAN-CHIH, PRESUMED OLDER BROTHER OF MAO YUAN-HISN AND SON OF THE CHIRMAN'S BROTHER MAO TSE-MIN. MAO YUAN-CHIH HAD NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED EARLIER.

4. THE WREATH IS ALSO OF INTREST SINCE IT MAKES NO SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO ANY FAMILY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CHAIRMAN AND THE OTHER INDIVUDALS. THROUGHOUT THR MOURING EVENTS SO FAR, CHIANG CHING HAS REMAINED AT HER POLITBURO STATION RATHER THAN MOVING INTO A SPECIAL "WIDOW-OF-THE-DECEASED" (PEKING 1820) POSITION. IN ADDITIONAL MENTION OF THE FAMILY, HONG KONG'S HSIN WAN PAO SEPTEMBER 13 PRINTED A 1958 REMINISCENCE OF A MEETING WITH MAO BY AN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE LEADER FROM HONAN. THE REMINISCENCE PRIGINALLY IN THE JULY 1, 1958 PEOPLE'S DAILY DESCRIBES A DINNER GATHERING WHERE THE CHAIRMAN INTRIDUCES HIS TWO DAUGHTERS, A NEPHEW, AND MAO'S WIFE TO THE VISITOR. OTHER WREATHS WORTHY OF NOTE INCLUDE ONE SENT BY THE GUARDS UNIT OF THE GENERAL OFFICE OF THE PARTY AND THE 8341 UNIT OF THE PLA, THE FORMER PRESUMABLY DIRECTLY UNDER THE CONTROL OF MAO-BODYGUARD WANG TUNG-HSING AND THE LATTER ALSO INVOLVED
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IN THE SPECIAL SECURITY WORK SURROUNDING PEKING'S TOP LEADERSHIP (NCNA SEPTEMBER 13).

5."HONOR GUARDS" FOR THE FUNERAL ALSO CONTAINED SOME ITEMS OF NOTE. DAUGHTER LI NA DID NOT APPEAR IN THE FIRST OR SECOND DAY'S LIST (SEPTEMBER 11-12) WITH COUSIN MAO YUAN-HSIN AND SISTER LI MIN,. ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SHE WILL BE NAMED IN A LATER LIST OF "GUARDS" FOR OTHER DAY'S

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MOURINING. PROVINCIAL TURNOUTS IN THE LISTING OF HONOUR
GUARDS ON SEPTEMBER 11 CONFIRM PARTY FIRST SECRETARY
VACANCIES IN TSINGHAI AND HELIUNGKIANG WITH THE FORMER
BOSSES LIU HSIEN-CHUAN AND WANG CHIA-TAO LISTED RESPECTIVELY
IS LESSER ROLES UNDER THE SHANTUNG AND LIAONING BANNERS.
THE SEPTEMBER 12 CEREMONIAL GUARDS COVER THE REMAINDER OF
THE PROVINCIAL AREAS NOT REPRESENTED ON SEPTEMBER 11, BUT
MUCH-MALIGNED LANCHOW MR COMMANDER HAN HSIEN-CHU DOES NOT
APPPEAR THERE. HE DOESN APPEAR THE FOLLOWING DAY, HOWEVER,
AMONG THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN THE
"HONOR GUARD". THE SHIFT FROM A PROVINCE-BY-PROVINCE
LISTING FOR THE FOLLOWING DAY APPEARS TO INDICATE SOME
SENSITIVITY OVER VACANCIES OR CURRENT POSITIONING AMONG
THE LATTER GROUP OF LEADERS.
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